

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 16-22 and 48-51 as below. A list of the pending claims follows.

PENDING CLAIMS

1 – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended): A stent assembly, comprising:

a) an expandable tubular stent body which is formed of a plurality of ring sections, which has at least one connecting support member extending between adjacent ring sections and which has ~~at least one a~~ a cover connecting member with ~~[[a]] at least one~~ penetrating element ~~on~~ formed integral with [[a]] at least one connecting support member; and

b) a stent cover which is disposed over at least a portion of the tubular stent body, which is secured to the tubular stent body by ~~[[a]] the~~ the cover connecting member with ~~[[a]] the~~ the penetrating element of the cover connector extending through the stent cover and extending over ~~which has an outer surface, and an inner surface adjacent a surface of the tubular body, and the penetrating element of the cover connector being positioned adjacent the an~~ an outer surface of the stent cover.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 16 wherein the cover on the stent ~~forms~~ has a ~~cylinder~~ cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge abutting a second longitudinally oriented edge.

19. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim [[17]] 16 wherein the cover on the stent ~~forms~~ has a cylinder cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge overlapping a second longitudinally oriented edge.

20. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim [[17]] 16 wherein the cover ~~connector~~ connecting member has two penetration elements, a first penetration element which extends through the cover at a first location on the cover adjacent to the first edge, and a second ~~penetration~~ penetration element which extends through the cover at a second location on the cover adjacent to the second edge.

21. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the cover on the stent extends from ~~the~~ a first end of the stent to ~~the~~ a second end of the stent.

22. (Previously amended): The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the cover is formed of biocompatible, non-thrombogenic material.

23 - 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein at least one ring section at ~~and~~ an end of the tubular stent body has undulations and at least one ring section connecting member extends between the at least one ring section having undulations and an adjacent ring section.

49. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim [[48]] 16 wherein the stent cover is secured to the body of the stent by the undulations of the ~~second~~ at

least one ring section at an end of the tubular stent body ring section which extend over
[[a]] ~~second~~ an end portion of the stent cover.

50. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein a plurality of ring connectors extend between [the first] adjacent ring section sections to ~~an adjacent intermediate ring section.~~

Claims 51 - 56. (Cancelled)